

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of:  
Tetsuo SETO

Application No.: 10/705,718

Confirmation No.: 5005

Filed: November 10, 2003

Art Unit: 2173

For: DATA INPUT PANEL CHARACTER  
CONVERSION

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Examiner: C. H. Nguyen

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS  
FOR ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 CFR §1.104(E)**

MS Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant is appreciative of the Notice of Allowance papers dated March 26, 2008. Applicant offers the following comments regarding these documents.

In the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner recites the features of independent claim 11 as being distinct features which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination. The Examiner then makes the statement:

"The closest prior arts, Murphy and Shulman discloses a conventional user interface for character entry wherein limited numbers of alphanumeric characters and symbols are displayed on the screen at a given time; either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render *the above underline limitation* obvious." [Notice of Allowability, page 2, emphasis added.]

Applicants note that the Examiner may be (a) referring to a portion of the limitations from independent claim 11 listed by the Examiner on page 2 of the Reasons for Allowance but which the

Examiner neglected to emphasize, i.e., underline, or (b) referring to the feature of the claimed invention as recited in, e.g., dependent claim 14 wherein “the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into the segment,” such a bar potentially appearing similarly to an “underline”. See Fig. 5, reference 505.

Due to this ambiguity, Applicants submit the following comments:

In the case of (b) above, Applicants note that although dependent claim 14 recites that the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to the characters, this limitation is not present in independent claim 11. Claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, a user interface which “provides an indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters of the first type are to be associated together into a segment”. Applicants submit that the “indicator” recited in claim 11 is not limited to a bar (or an underline) as possibly alleged by the Examiner in his Reasons for Allowance.

Applicants respectfully note that the invention is defined by all of the allowed claims, which stand upon their own recitations, and limitations should not be imputed to any of the claims based upon the statement of Reasons for Allowance. Moreover, Applicant respectfully reserves his right to argue alternative interpretations and additional patentable distinctions of the claimed invention over any alleged prior art, should that need ever arise, and do not necessarily agree with any characteristics of the invention and/or alleged advantages thereof.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact John R. Sanders (Reg. No. 60,166) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By

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